

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A seal assembly, comprising:

- a) a face seal made of elastomeric or thermoplastic material comprising a unitary seal ring bonded to a mounting ring wherein said seal ring comprises a contact surface with an inner peripheral edge and an outer peripheral edge, said contact surface further comprising textured features, formed by integrally molding said elastomeric or thermoplastic material, disposed interior to said outer peripheral edge said textured features comprising protrusions extending outward from the surface of said contact surface, wherein said protrusions have recesses and;
- b) a second surface, said second surface being substantially flat and contacted with said protrusions of said contact surface of said face seal to produce a seal comprising a region of intensified contact interior to the outer peripheral edge that redirects incoming dirt and debris away from the region of intensified contact.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said protrusions have a shape selected from the group consisting of: cylindrical, trapezoidal, rectangular, elliptical, spherical, conoidal, quonset-shaped, conical or discus.

54. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein the spacing of each of said textured features is equidistant.

55. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said outer peripheral edge is curved.

56. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said outer peripheral edge is raised.

57. (Canceled)